

# VOICES FOR VICTIMS

The Voices for Victims awards program is part of the Attorney General's new Victims Services and Outreach Division, which Zoeller established in May of this year to focus support on victims of violent crimes, including human trafficking, domestic violence and sexual assault. He said the awards were inspired during recent visits to victim service providers across the state that showcased the brave and selfless work being done by individuals to help those traumatized by violent crime.

A list of the recipients are listed below:

- **Sarah Hurley, founder and executive director of Kristy's House.** Kristy's House is an Indianapolis nonprofit aimed at helping victims escape and recover from sexual victimization. Hurley overcame commercial sexual exploitation herself, and now dedicates her life to serving women with similar experiences to help them overcome deep levels of trauma and victimization. She works with addiction counseling centers, shelters and others to serve those often treated as "throwaways" by society.
- **Stephanie Rader, board member of Legacy House.** Legacy House provides no cost trauma counseling and advocacy services to victims of violence in Central Indiana. Rader lost her son to homicide, and since then has helped hundreds of other Hoosiers who have lost a loved one to violent crime, largely by encouraging communication on loss and recovery. She also engages in the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department's "Survivors of Violent Death Support Group."
- **Laura Berry, executive director of the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV).** ICADV is a statewide coalition working toward the prevention and elimination of domestic violence in Indiana. Berry has served as executive director of ICADV since 1994 and has shown dedication and leadership in all roles of service to victims. She has been a voice for victims in the Statehouse, helping to shape policy decisions to address domestic violence in Indiana.
- **Laura Fleming-Balmer, executive director of Clark County Youth Shelter and Family Services, Inc. (CCYS) and Ashley Nelson, CCYS assistant director.** Based in Jeffersonville, CCYS provides emergency assistance including shelter, food and other needs to children in crisis. CCYS has received national recognition for its services and is a beacon of hope to many children and families in Southern Indiana. Recently, CCYS performed above and beyond to respond to a local crisis in which several children were alleged victims of abuse at a boarding school for troubled youth inside Crossroads Baptist Church in Sellersburg. CCYS worked around the clock for several days to provide emergency services to these children, serving meals, making arrangements for shelter, and supporting local law enforcement and others involved in helping the children and prosecuting the alleged perpetrators.
- **Donna Lloyd, executive director of Comfort House.** Comfort House in Corydon is one of 21 Child Advocacy Centers across Indiana that provides specialized assistance and counseling to children of sexual assault. Lloyd has served as executive director of Comfort House since 2006, and hundreds of child sexual assault victims have been served through her leadership. She also spearheaded Southern Indiana's first child abuse prevention program in Harrison County. Through this program, more than 1,500 children have been reached with preventative child abuse training.
- **Monica Hernandez, victim advocate with Middle Way House.** Middle Way House in Bloomington provides emergency and transitional housing as well as other resources to victims of violence or abuse. Through her involvement at Middle Way House, Hernandez organizes outreach to numerous victims especially in local ethnic communities, many of whom may be new to the country and who are isolated due to language or other barriers. Monica speaks fluent Spanish. She also served as a volunteer translating new Address Confidentiality and Hope Card materials into Spanish for the Attorney General's Victim Services and Outreach Division.
- **Lisa Wein, executive director of Haven House.** Haven House in Hammond is a 24-hour emergency shelter for domestic violence victims and their dependents. Wein has served as executive director of Haven House for 18 years, taking on the role during a transitional and crisis time for the shelter. Prior to her work with Haven House, she served as an alcohol and drug counselor for 19 years and has assisted even the most difficult to reach victims throughout her career.
- **Sharon Bennett, commander of the Special Victims Unit with the Lake County Sheriff's Department.** Bennett is a 37-year veteran of the Lake County Sheriff's Department. She currently supervises the Criminal Investigations-Special Victims Unit and was instrumental in developing this unit in 1995. Under her supervision, the unit has advanced into a county-wide forensic interviewing unit, utilized by numerous police agencies and the Indiana Department of Child Services.
- **Dr. Kalyani Gopal, founder of SAFE Coalition for Human Rights and associate faculty with IU Northwest.** Dr. Gopal has devoted more than 30 years of her life to helping human trafficking victims and has been instrumental in advancing the knowledge base in the medical, educational and training fields related to

victimization and trauma, especially concerning human trafficking victims. She also founded SAFE Coalition for Human Rights, a nonprofit supported and operated by volunteers that provides human trafficking awareness training in Indiana, nationally and globally.

- **Malea Crosby, founder of Forces and Voices Project.** The Forces and Voices Project is a nonprofit located in Terre Haute that was created to educate, prevent and assist victims of sexual assault. The Forces and Voices Project consists of board members and others who are also sexual assault advocates at Indiana State University. Crosby is a survivor of sexual assault, and courageously brought her message to the General Assembly several years ago, testifying on behalf of Representative Christina Hale's effort to study the under-reporting of sexual assault in Indiana. Crosby is also counselor at Gibault Children's Center in Terre Haute.